

With many school districts adopting technology plans and implementing it in the classrooms, our work as K-12 interpreters is constantly evolving. While these advances certainly enhance students' education in the classroom, they also not only enhance our work, as well, but can provide support in new ways. Here are some ideas:

- The concept of “teaming” doesn’t always mean “the other interpreter you split an assignment with”. A team can also provide support, even if you aren’t in the same building or district. Skype, Facetime, or other video messaging apps can be used to debrief with colleagues near and far about assignments, sign questions, etc. Not every K-12 interpreter has the benefit of working with other interpreters during the day, so finding those ways to connect with others and process your work can provide the support we need in our field.
- Use a Google account to build your own resource library (which has the added benefit of being easy to share with others and can be accessed any time you’re signed into Google). Google Bookmarks can be used to save useful websites. Use YouTube to subscribe to the channels of ASL users, or create playlists of videos.
- Likewise, YouTube EDU, TED-Ed, TEDTalks, iTunesU, or other podcasts are not only great resources to use for prepping, they also provide great practice stimuli.
- Apps. Many apps are now available for both Android and iOS. The obvious way these can be utilized is using the same apps the students are using in the classroom, not only to become familiar with what they are seeing, but also to access prep materials or keep up with important info. Another way is to utilize the app store to find apps to help you prep for a new subject, such as interactive apps for learning the body structures taught in Anatomy and Physiology.

A final resource, which seems to be in short supply, is access to vocabulary and educational concepts presented in ASL. However, this is where MSAD comes in. We would like to gather feedback from readers and, if there is interest, upload video clips, created by our deaf staff here at MSAD, of requested ASL signs and concepts to a private, shared site which would be accessible to MRID members. If this is something that piques your interest, please click on the link below to fill out a short survey to help us meet your needs.

<http://goo.gl/forms/7WH5tLnddy>



This article was a collaborative effort between the seven staff interpreters who make up the interpreting department at MSAD. Our group is very diverse: we stem from four different ITPs, our experiences range from recent grads to 20+ years in the field, and also have interpreters with Deaf family members. Not only do we cover interpreting assignments at MSAD, but we also interpret for MSAD students who take mainstream classes at the Faribault Public Schools. We feel very fortunate for not only the opportunities we have, but also the support we provide each other daily. We appreciate the support MRID provides to educational interpreters in the state of Minnesota, and we look forward to seeing the growth of the EIC.